

Patent Application for Reflective Decorative Cane

Inventor: Anne Countryman

File Date: 08/09/01

ABSTRACT:

A safety-enhancing decorative walking cane made of PETG transparent materials with a reflective foil or garland lining can be used not only as a fashion accessory in daytime but, most importantly at night as a safety feature.

U.S. REFERENCES:

Patent	Issued	Inventor(s)	Title
US4027687	6/1977	McGowan	Protective and/or Decorative Cover for Walking Aids
US5331988	7/1994	Harmon	Walking Cane with Alternative Cover
US5219402	6/1993	Kondo; Yoshio	Stick Usable at Daytime and Night
US4236544	12/1980	Osaka; Takeshi	Safety-enhancing Walking Stick
US5197501	3/1993	Ragatz	Multi-purpose Cane
US4625742	12/1986	Phillips	Multi-function Lighted Cane
US4062371	12/1977	Bolen	Walking Cane
US5810466	9/1993	Young	Walking Cane
US6011481	1/2000	Luther; Husain	Walking Cane with Sensor
US5056545	10/1991	Spaeth	Safety Walking Cane

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION:

I have had multiple sclerosis for a number of years so I have looked for alternatives to the aluminum canes. I was surprised to discover so few sources of interesting canes. Some of the unusual canes are not practical but interesting attention getters. They are not strong enough for support for the average sized person, they are not easy on the hand, and it is impossible to hang them on the arm or to rest them on a chair without falling to the floor. It is very hard for many handicapped to retrieve a fallen cane.

Canes have been around for many years. In the 18th century in England it was a necessary to have a license for the privilege of carrying a cane. The cane became a fashion symbol as well as a stabilizer for walking. Today many should-be-cane uses do not adopt the use of the cane because of how it looks, because it is a sign of failing or aging and disablement. They are proud and they do not consider a cane a fashion accessory. They move more slowly and they need something beyond the white cane of the blind to be able to cross the street, especially in the evening.

The desired cane has a slightly hook curved endshaft that reaches from a hand holding height down to the ground. The single foot supports the cane on the ground and the handle provides control of cane by the user. I have found the cane with a slightly hook curved end to be the easiest to manage.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY